

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 HA-05 /084 W
-----080030 111112Z /14/14

R 290720Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1224
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
EUCOM

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING PARAS TWO, THREE)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, TU
SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF DISK MARCH 20 DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: ANKARA 2124 (DTG 211223Z MAR 78)

1. PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND DEBATE CONTINUES CONCERNING THE
SIGNIFICANCE AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE TWO-HOUR DEMONSTRATION
STAGED ON MARCH 20 BY DISK (CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH
REVOLUTIONARY TRADE UNIONS). THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR CONDUCTED
AN INTERROGATION OF THE DISK LEADERS INVOLVED AND EXPRESSED
THE OPINION THAT THE DURATION AND PURPOSE OF THE TWO-HOUR
DEMONSTRATION DID NOT JUSTIFY THE ARREST OF THE DISK LEADERS.

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HE TOLD REPORTERS HE WAS UNDECIDED WHETHER THE CASE SHOULD
BE SENT TO COURT BUT WOULD CONTINUE HIS INVESTIGATIONS.

2. DISK PRESIDENT ABDULLAH BASTURK AND TOB-DER (LEFTIST
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION) PRESIDENT GULTEKIN GAZIOGLU MADE
DECISION TO HOLD THE DEMONSTRATION WAS ILLEGAL AND IRRESPONSIBLE.
THE DECISION, THEY SAID, WAS NOT AN ACTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

BUT AGAINST FASCIST AGGRESSIONS AND MURDERS AND THE POWERS BEHIND THEM. DISK LEADERS FURTHER HELD A MEETING AT GONEN WHERE THEY REAFFIRMED THEIR DETERMINATION TO FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM. THEIR JUSTIFICATION AND STRENGTH, THEY SAID, LAY IN SOCIALISM WHICH IS THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE WORKING CLASSES. SINCE THESE PRINCIPLES WERE NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, DISK WILL LAUNCH AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO TEACH THEM HOW TO FIGHT FASCISM EFFECTIVELY.

3. ECEVIT SUPPORTERS REPEATED THE CHARGE THAT THE WORK BOYCOTT, HOWEVER BRIEF, WAS ILLEGAL AND CONTRIBUTED TO ANARCHY. RIGHT-WING SPOKESMEN AND PRESS CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR INCOMPETENCE IN THE FACE OF INCREASING ANARCHY.

4. TURK-IS (THE CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS) SUPPORTED ECEVIT'S POSITION. THEY DENOUNCED THE DISK ACTION FOR SPREADING ANARCHY AND CONTRIBUTING TO THAT SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY. ACTIVISTS, THEY SAID, CONCENTRATING ON THE YOUTH WERE TRYING TO SPREAD THEIR INFLUENCE OVER THE WORKERS AND TO DRAG THE TRADE UNIONS INTO ANARCHY. DISK HAS FALLEN INTO THAT TRAP WHICH TURK-IS HAS ALWAYS AVOIDED.

5. COMMENT: BASTURK WAS ABLE TO KEEP THE DISK EXECUTIVE BOARD FIRMLY BEHIND HIM AND ESTABLISHED HIMSELF MORE STRONGLY AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LEFT. IN THE CONFRONTATION WITH ECEVIT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOWEVER, HE PROBABLY DAMAGED HIS POLITICAL POSITION IN THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), BUT THIS IS UNCERTAIN AS IT IS UNKNOWN HOW THE DISK SUPPORTERS IN THE RPP HAVE REACTED. KEMAL TURKLER, FORMER DISK PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT OF THE METAL WORKERS UNION (MADEN-IS), REMAINED SILENT THROUGHOUT AND HIS UNION DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE DEMONSTRATION. HOWEVER, THE MADEN-IS OWNED NEWSPAPER POLITIKA FULLY SUPPORTED THE DISK ACTION AND CRITICIZED THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT FOR FAILURE TO SHOW THE REQUIRED FIRMNESS TOWARD FASCISM. SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, LABOR STRIKES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA02318
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780164-0453, D780136-0129
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780316/aaaaamvv.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0629febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ANKARA 2124
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3176225
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFTERMATH OF DISK MARCH 20 DEMONSTRATIONS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, TU, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0629febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014